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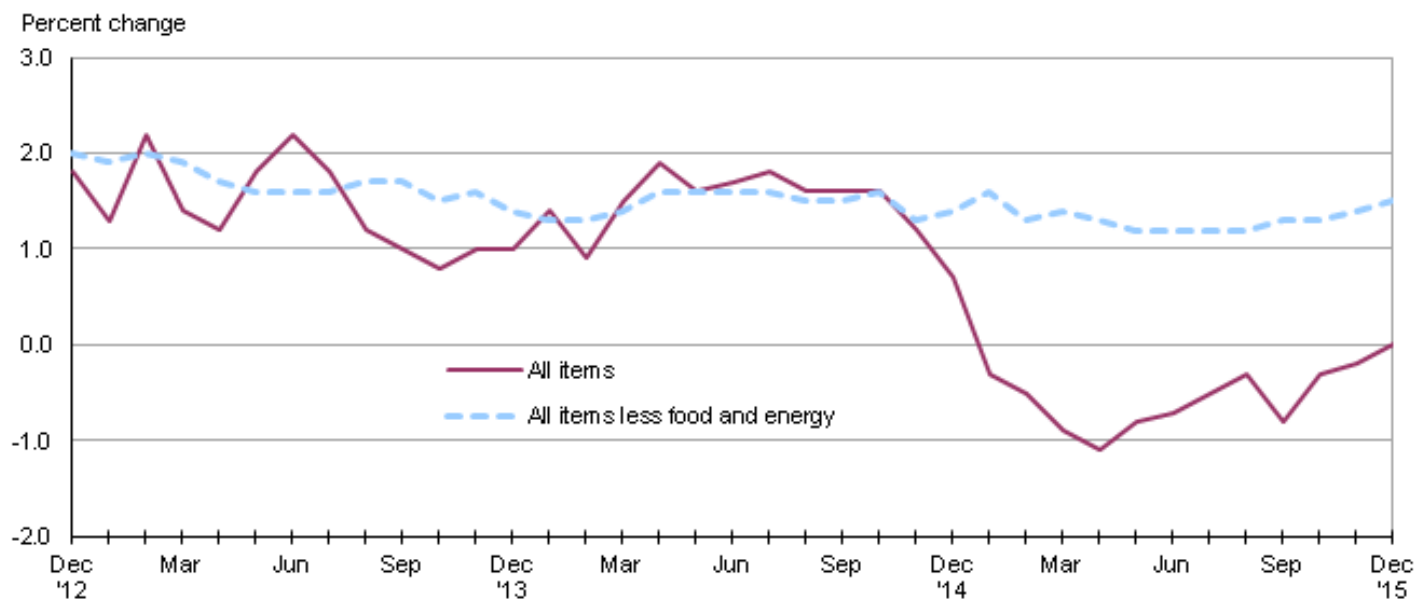
Consumer Price Index, Midwest Region – December 2015

Prices in the Midwest down 0.6 percent in December and unchanged over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Midwest was down 0.6 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This follows a decrease of 0.5 percent in November and marks the fourth consecutive monthly decline. The December decrease was largely attributable to a 12.3-percent drop in motor fuel prices. The broader energy index was 5.9 percent lower over the month. Food prices, up 0.1 percent, and prices for all items less food and energy, down 0.2 percent, were little changed. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The CPI-U for the Midwest was unchanged from December 2014 to December 2015, ending eleven consecutive months of over-the-year decline. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices increased 0.6 percent, but the energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, fell 14.8 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U rose 1.5 percent in 2015. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Midwest region, December 2012–December 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices in the Midwest were virtually unchanged in December, up a slight 0.1 percent. The index for food at home edged up 0.2 percent over the month following a decrease of 0.8 percent in November. Costs for food away from home (0.1 percent) changed little over the month.

In 2015, the index for food rose 0.6 percent, the smallest over-the-year increase since June 2010. Rising costs for food away from home (2.2 percent) were responsible for the yearly advance. Prices for food at home had their third consecutive over-the-year decline, down 0.4 percent from December 2014 to December 2015. Prior to this, food at home prices had not decreased over the year since early 2010.

Energy

The energy index registered its sixth consecutive monthly decline, falling 5.9 percent in December, and had the greatest downward impact on the all items index. The decrease in energy costs was largely attributable to a 12.3-percent drop in motor fuel prices, the largest monthly dip since January 2015. Lower costs for utility (piped) gas service (-1.6 percent) also contributed to the monthly decline, but electricity prices were essentially unchanged (0.1 percent).

Energy prices fell 14.8 percent from December 2014 to December 2015. Motor fuel prices continued to decline, dropping 22.4 percent in 2015. The index for motor fuel declined 20.7 percent in 2014 and was 3.5 percent lower in 2013. Costs for utility (piped) gas service were down 22.8 percent from December 2014 to December 2015, while electricity prices were 1.0 percent higher. By comparison, these indexes were up 10.3 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively, in 2014.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy for the Midwest crept down 0.2 percent in December after registering no change in the prior month. A decline of 3.2 percent in prices for apparel had the greatest impact on the index. Costs for shelter were unchanged over the month due to offsetting movements among its components. Other expenditure categories that registered no change over the month included medical care, education and communication, and other goods and services.

The index for all items less food and energy was up 1.5 percent from December 2014 to December 2015. Higher costs for shelter (2.3 percent) led the advance. Medical care services (2.6 percent), other goods and services (2.0 percent), and education and communication (0.9 percent) were among the categories contributing to the increase in 2015. In contrast, lower apparel prices (-2.1 percent) had the largest offsetting effect.

The Midwest Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 222.722 in December 2015. A typical market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in the 1982-84 base period cost \$222.72 in December 2015. Because regional CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the regional indexes.

CPI-W

In December, the Midwest Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Worker (CPI-W) was 217.076, down 0.7 percent over the month. The CPI-W decreased 0.4 percent over the year.

Table A. Midwest region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	1.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	1.3	0.5	1.4	-0.6	-0.3
February.....	0.3	2.2	0.2	2.7	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	-0.5
March.....	0.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	0.2	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.6	-0.9
April.....	0.7	3.3	0.2	2.3	-0.1	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.1	-1.1
May.....	0.6	3.8	-0.1	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.6	0.4	-0.8
June.....	0.0	3.9	-0.1	1.4	0.3	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.7
July.....	0.1	3.8	0.0	1.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.3	1.8	0.0	-0.5
August.....	0.2	3.8	0.7	1.8	0.1	1.2	-0.2	1.6	0.0	-0.3
September.....	0.2	3.9	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.6	-0.3	-0.8
October.....	-0.6	3.3	-0.3	2.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.5	1.6	-0.1	-0.3
November.....	0.0	3.3	-0.4	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.6	1.2	-0.5	-0.2
December.....	-0.2	2.8	-0.2	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.7	0.7	-0.6	0.0

The January 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Midwest region is scheduled to be released on Friday, February 19, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater

volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. NOTE: **Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Midwest region is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	225.050	224.009	222.722	0.0	-1.0	-0.6
All items (December 1977=100).....	366.170	364.475	362.381			
Food and beverages	241.006	240.006	240.283	0.6	-0.3	0.1
Food	240.695	239.676	239.965	0.6	-0.3	0.1
Food at home	231.063	229.217	229.594	-0.4	-0.6	0.2
Food away from home.....	256.751	257.145	257.281	2.2	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.937	242.242	242.342	0.4	-0.2	0.0
Housing	212.917	212.784	212.751	1.0	-0.1	0.0
Shelter	250.776	251.104	251.159	2.3	0.2	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	249.885	250.581	250.954	2.6	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	254.346	255.101	255.603	2.3	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	254.339	255.095	255.593	2.3	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	209.651	207.998	207.707	-5.0	-0.9	-0.1
Household energy	172.729	170.868	170.228	-7.7	-1.4	-0.4
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	180.075	178.131	177.472	-7.0	-1.4	-0.4
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	196.961	195.913	196.090	1.0	-0.4	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	141.681	138.200	136.057	-22.8	-4.0	-1.6
Household furnishings and operations	115.743	115.088	114.930	-0.7	-0.7	-0.1
Apparel	122.731	120.087	116.220	-2.1	-5.3	-3.2
Transportation	196.789	192.703	186.673	-5.2	-5.1	-3.1
Private transportation	191.149	186.808	180.971	-5.4	-5.3	-3.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	98.505	98.198	98.065	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1
New vehicles	139.115	139.507	139.731	0.0	0.4	0.2
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	98.543	98.734	98.894	0.1	0.4	0.2
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	135.531	135.628	135.869	-0.2	0.2	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	146.290	143.518	142.725	0.3	-2.4	-0.6
Motor fuel	217.297	198.363	174.035	-22.4	-19.9	-12.3
Gasoline (all types).....	216.014	197.007	172.760	-22.3	-20.0	-12.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	210.759	191.809	167.221	-23.6	-20.7	-12.8
Gasoline, Unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	248.063	227.208	203.700	-17.8	-17.9	-10.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	235.064	216.831	196.843	-14.3	-16.3	-9.2
Medical Care	454.680	456.198	456.158	2.4	0.3	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	366.054	367.345	367.698	1.7	0.4	0.1
Medical care services.....	484.457	486.047	485.853	2.6	0.3	0.0
Professional services	392.671	393.089	393.920	1.9	0.3	0.2
Recreation ⁽³⁾	117.320	116.914	116.820	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	140.687	140.814	140.809	0.9	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	402.313	402.790	402.754	2.0	0.1	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	225.050	224.009	222.722	0.0	-1.0	-0.6
Commodities	178.837	176.406	173.956	-2.5	-2.7	-1.4
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.592	145.614	142.071	-4.6	-4.4	-2.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	191.141	185.783	178.468	-6.8	-6.6	-3.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	236.073	228.948	219.385	-8.3	-7.1	-4.2
Durables	106.346	105.538	105.394	-1.1	-0.9	-0.1
Services.....	272.847	273.173	273.027	1.6	0.1	-0.1
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	257.566	257.912	257.965	2.3	0.2	0.0

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
Transportation services	293.796	296.418	294.734	1.9	0.3	-0.6
Other services	329.079	328.985	329.098	1.5	0.0	0.0
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	214.182	213.020	211.674	-0.3	-1.2	-0.6
All items less food	222.407	221.362	219.819	-0.2	-1.2	-0.7
All items less shelter	218.039	216.470	214.664	-1.0	-1.5	-0.8
Commodities less food	151.598	148.664	145.198	-4.4	-4.2	-2.3
Nondurables	215.796	212.470	208.707	-2.9	-3.3	-1.8
Nondurables less food	193.929	188.806	181.867	-6.3	-6.2	-3.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	235.409	228.843	220.113	-7.6	-6.5	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	305.415	305.736	305.354	0.8	0.0	-0.1
Services less medical care services	257.059	257.295	257.153	1.4	0.0	-0.1
Energy	192.789	183.519	172.607	-14.8	-10.5	-5.9
All items less energy	230.934	230.735	230.433	1.3	-0.2	-0.1
All items less food and energy	229.863	229.815	229.402	1.5	-0.2	-0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.534	145.592	144.724	-0.6	-1.2	-0.6
Energy commodities	216.065	197.788	174.361	-22.5	-19.3	-11.8
Services less energy services	284.720	285.298	285.208	2.2	0.2	0.0

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	219.875	218.569	217.076	-0.4	-1.3	-0.7
All items (December 1977=100).....	355.586	353.474	351.060			
Food and beverages	241.461	240.322	240.429	0.5	-0.4	0.0
Food	241.190	240.036	240.126	0.4	-0.4	0.0
Food at home	232.007	230.047	230.145	-0.6	-0.8	0.0
Food away from home.....	257.892	258.309	258.382	2.3	0.2	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	244.122	243.231	243.618	0.7	-0.2	0.2
Housing	208.058	207.969	208.019	0.9	0.0	0.0
Shelter	240.194	240.625	240.820	2.3	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	250.509	251.213	251.579	2.6	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	237.115	237.803	238.259	2.3	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	237.123	237.810	238.264	2.3	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	210.660	209.033	208.733	-4.8	-0.9	-0.1
Household energy	173.482	171.663	171.065	-7.4	-1.4	-0.3
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	179.422	177.558	176.948	-6.7	-1.4	-0.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	195.380	194.351	194.528	1.0	-0.4	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	142.275	138.815	136.666	-23.1	-3.9	-1.5
Household furnishings and operations	114.147	113.399	113.211	-0.9	-0.8	-0.2
Apparel	121.140	118.743	114.942	-2.0	-5.1	-3.2
Transportation	194.737	189.647	182.979	-6.0	-6.0	-3.5
Private transportation	191.259	186.033	179.465	-6.2	-6.2	-3.5
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	98.690	98.032	97.770	-0.1	-0.9	-0.3
New vehicles	142.383	142.788	142.957	-0.1	0.4	0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	146.942	144.166	143.365	0.3	-2.4	-0.6
Motor fuel	218.046	198.865	174.645	-22.4	-19.9	-12.2
Gasoline (all types).....	216.666	197.425	173.289	-22.3	-20.0	-12.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	211.233	192.083	167.620	-23.6	-20.6	-12.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	248.076	227.061	203.598	-17.8	-17.9	-10.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	235.222	216.638	196.871	-14.4	-16.3	-9.1
Medical Care	460.010	461.573	461.516	2.4	0.3	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	359.927	361.112	361.494	1.7	0.4	0.1
Medical care services.....	491.082	492.767	492.531	2.6	0.3	0.0
Professional services	394.117	394.590	395.464	1.9	0.3	0.2
Recreation ⁽³⁾	113.510	113.152	113.007	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	132.471	132.656	132.688	0.7	0.2	0.0
Other goods and services	447.525	448.371	449.210	2.8	0.4	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	219.875	218.569	217.076	-0.4	-1.3	-0.7
Commodities	181.544	178.735	175.929	-2.8	-3.1	-1.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	152.538	149.039	144.999	-5.1	-4.9	-2.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	198.714	192.404	184.028	-7.7	-7.4	-4.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	246.832	238.147	226.980	-9.2	-8.0	-4.7
Durables	108.448	107.455	107.240	-1.0	-1.1	-0.2
Services.....	265.490	265.879	265.862	1.5	0.1	0.0
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	238.531	238.969	239.160	2.4	0.3	0.1
Transportation services	293.698	296.449	295.372	2.5	0.6	-0.4
Other services	304.687	304.817	304.910	1.2	0.1	0.0

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Midwest (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	210.659	209.250	207.707	-0.6	-1.4	-0.7
All items less food	215.767	214.435	212.657	-0.6	-1.4	-0.8
All items less shelter	215.019	213.082	210.973	-1.5	-1.9	-1.0
Commodities less food	155.317	151.873	147.932	-4.8	-4.8	-2.6
Nondurables	220.269	216.444	212.153	-3.4	-3.7	-2.0
Nondurables less food	200.989	194.966	187.052	-7.1	-6.9	-4.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	244.949	236.950	226.789	-8.4	-7.4	-4.3
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	270.265	270.562	270.312	0.6	0.0	-0.1
Services less medical care services	250.552	250.864	250.860	1.4	0.1	0.0
Energy	193.549	183.637	172.019	-15.2	-11.1	-6.3
All items less energy	224.883	224.630	224.377	1.3	-0.2	-0.1
All items less food and energy	221.823	221.760	221.434	1.5	-0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	149.653	148.623	147.798	-0.4	-1.2	-0.6
Energy commodities	217.373	198.675	175.132	-22.5	-19.4	-11.9
Services less energy services	276.865	277.551	277.612	2.2	0.3	0.0

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1984=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

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